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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

mikeb@cwo.com wrote on 7/30/2004 9:38:42 AM :

<META HTTP-EQUIV="Content-Type" CONTENT="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1" >

<META NAME="Generator" CONTENT="MS Exchange Server version 6.0.6556.0" >

Please read this

Michael Butler
3344 Mather Field Road
Rancho Cordova, Ca 95670

July 21, 2004

FCC Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

FCC Chairman Powell:

As a concerned individual, I am writing to express my opposition to the Department of Justice's request that all new Internet communication services be required to have built-in wiretapping access.

I do not believe this requirement is necessary. Longstanding laws already require Internet Service Providers and Internet telephone companies to allow the FBI to conduct surveillance. The FBI is going far beyond these existing powers by trying to force the industry to actually build its systems around government eavesdropping. It is the equivalent of the government requiring all new homes be built with a peephole for law enforcement to look through.

I am very concerned that this requirement represents an end-run around Congress. Lawmakers, after extensive deliberations, set up boundaries for how the FBI can collect information between sources like phone companies and data sources like e-mail. The FBI's aggressive and expansive reading of the law would bypass the legislative process to alter that careful balance.

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I understand that by requiring a master key to our personal communications, the government is creating the very real potential for hackers and thieves or even rogue government agents to access our personal communications. Past efforts to provide this sort of backdoor access have not been successful and only created a rich opportunity for hackers.

Once again, I urge you to oppose the dangerous suggestion of the Department of Justice that our new Internet communication technologies should have built-in wiretapping.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Butler
916-869-6478